

Newsletter



Newsletter 19

24th June 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have been enjoying the recent warm weather. We are keeping everything crossed that it continues for the *Summer Do* on Saturday – things are looking good at the moment! In view of the building work going on, this will be held on the playgrounds by Years N-4. Please bring camping chairs, rather than a blanket, to sit on and don't forget your reusable cups. We look forward to seeing you there!

Next Friday 1st July, is the second occasional day, and school will be closed. This additional day is because the extra Jubilee bank holiday fell in half term.



Outings and Trips

Year 6 had a fantastic week away on the Isle of Wight. This year, they stayed on Tapnell Farm, which was a departure from the usual accommodation. As well as a wide range of outings during the day, they were able to race go-karts, play on trampolines and enjoy acres of land to play on in the evenings. The children were exceptionally well behaved and the staff who took them (Mr Browne, Mrs Abrahams and Mel) enjoyed their company so much, they said they would have been happy to stay another week! I am extremely grateful to them for giving up their evenings, nights and free time to make this trip so successful. They are wonderful! Well done too, to our Year 6 who were a credit to their families.

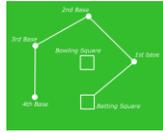
We are hoping to change the booking we made for next year to Tapnell Farm – fingers crossed!

Reception enjoyed a great day out to Beckonscot Model Village this week. The children were very sensible, well behaved and helpful, and everyone felt proud of them. Thank you very much to the staff and volunteer parents for taking the children on their first trip!



Basketball

Huge congratulations to the Year 5 children who represented our area at the Herts Youth Games last week. As the Year 6 children were away, we fielded a team of Year 5s, some of whom had not played before. The children played brilliantly, and although they did not win, they could not have tried harder. Thank you to Mrs Mason and Mel for making this event happen.



Rounders

Very well done to the Rounders Team, who played fantastically last week, and finished as silver medallists at the Rural Schools Rounders competition. Thank you to our team coach, Mrs Abrahams, for organising this event.



Image Musical Theatre

On Tuesday afternoon, we will be welcoming back Image Musical Theatre, who will be performing *The Reluctant Dragon*. The performance will be during school time and there will be no charge to families.



Dancing at Poynder's Meadow

On Tuesday 12th July, we will be taking the Maypole, Country and Sword Dancing Teams to dance at Poynder's Meadow. This is covered under the local visits form, so parents do not need to fill anything out. We will leave at breaktime and return in time for lunch. We are very much looking forward to returning, having not been there for over two years!



Sports Day – Wednesday 20th July

Sports Day will still be taking place at the end of the field. Space will be more limited than usual so we will adapt the races accordingly but parents will still be able to attend. Due to the challenges of moving chairs to the far side of the field, we suggest parents bring a rug or camping seats to sit on.

We have looked at other locations in the village, but for a number of reasons, think that it is best for the children to be on the school site, with ready access to water and toilets. Next year we will be able to resume a full programme of events.



PTFA

We look forward to seeing you at the Summer Do!

Big Breakfast and Sponsored Walk: 29th June. 8.30 a.m. – 10.00 Breakfast will be available from 8.30 including bacon rolls and brioche. Please let us know of any dietary requirements in advance, so that we can order the relevant foods.



Village Day – Kids TV through the decades!

We are very excited to be taking part in the Village Day Parade again this year. A poster has been sent home regarding costumes, with a slip to return, if your child wishes to take part. Our theme is: The Flintstones.

We have been asked to do Maypole, Country and Sword dancing; please could you return the slip at the bottom of the newsletter if your child is able to take part? I will meet the children by the side of the arena shortly before we perform. We have requested an early performance slot so we should be able to let you know timings once the arena schedule has been finalised by the Village Day committee. Costumes will be sent home the night before and the children will need to be wearing these when they meet me. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries.



Duckingham Palace

Our little ducklings – Peccorino Romano, Renegade Monk, Buffalo Mozzarella and Babybel – now have a lovely enclosure next to Barnaby, and will be returning to school on Monday.

Thank you to Miss Granger for looking after them, and for building enclosures at school and at her home for them. We look forward to watching them grow!



School Expansion – What a difference a week makes!

On Monday, work started on our new building. To say that we are surprised with the speed with which things are progressing would be an understatement and we are feeling confident that things will be finished on schedule! We are taking time lapse photos to show the children, and will be adding pictures to the website regularly.

Thank you very much to Mr Cook for cutting back the shrubs and trees, so that Year 3 can get down the side of the building to the back playground.

This is how the field has changed in Week 1:

From this...

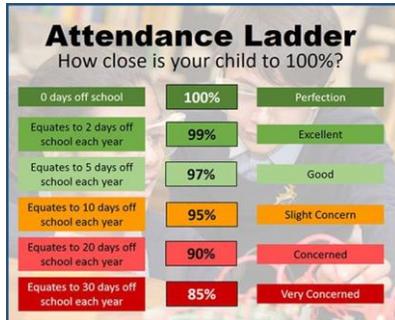


To this...





Attendance – important changes



Our attendance record at school has always been very good; although the pandemic has affected this, as may be expected, it remains above national levels. Attendance of above 95% makes a huge impact on the outcomes for children at every stage of their learning, and increases the children's chances of getting 5 good GCSEs significantly. Children who average between 85% and 90% attendance through their years at school, only have a 28% chance, whilst those with 95% + have a 70% or higher chance.

Because of all the research showing the importance of high attendance, the government has announced that new rules which will apply everywhere in England. I have included them below as I know parents plan holidays ahead. The timeline of when the changes will be coming in has not yet been confirmed. I would hate any parent to be in a difficult position because they were not aware of the rules.

New rules:

Firstly, attendance will be reported directly to the government on a daily basis, rather than the information be held locally. If children have five days of unauthorised absence, holiday or lateness within one term, parents will be given a fixed penalty notice which incurs a fine. They face a maximum of two fines within a school year; if this is exceeded, prosecution by the government would be considered. Fines are per child, per parent.

Children who are absent for 15 days or more due to ill health have be reported to the local council to make sure that they and their family get more support.

Thank you for reading this newsletter. Please remember I am always happy to discuss any issues with you.

Liz Pollard
HEADTEACHER

Village Day Dancing

My child:

Class:

Will be taking part in (please tick):

- Maypole Dancing
- Country Dancing
- Sword Dancing

Signed:

Date: